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July 20, 2005

Honorable David Dreier
Member of Congress
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20616

Dear Congressman Dreier:

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning H.R. 2363, the Peace Officer Justice Act of 2005. The California Police Chiefs Association is strongly in support of this legislation. The addition of federal jurisdiction over someone who murders a peace officer is an important tool to be used in assuring that those who commit these heinous acts are held accountable.

In addition to H.R. 2363, the California Police Chiefs Association believes that steps need to be taken at the international level to insure that those who murder peace officers and then flee to Mexico are returned to this country to stand trial for their crimes. Candidly, we do not believe that there has been sufficient pressure brought to bear on Mexico to achieve this result. In this connection, the California Police Chiefs Association suggests that you consider amending H.R. 2363, to authorize the President to suspend any trade agreements with nations which refuse to return fugitives who murder peace officers. We believe that such an amendment would provide an impetus for those nations to finally permit the extradition of those who would commit the heinous crime of murdering a peace officer.

The California Police Chiefs Association looks forward to working with you as this legislation moves through Congress.

Sincerely,

William F. Brown, Jr.
President